

RemarksStatus and Disposition of Claims

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed May 25, 2010. In the Action, the Office considered all pending claims, i.e., claims 1-6.

With this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1 and 2, and amend claims 3, 4, and 6. The amendment finds support throughout the specification, and specifically, for example, in paragraphs [0011]-[0019] and Figure 1.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority as well as receipt of all certified copies of the priority documents.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating consideration of all of the documents listed in the Information Disclosure Statement of January 11, 2007.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 as anticipated by Erk et al. (US 2004/0108297). In response, Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection for the reasons that follow.

Applicants note that the present invention relates to an etching process after a mirror polishing process for improving global flatness and lowering gloss level, so that front and back sides of the wafer, where both sides have been polished, can be identified.

Erk et al. discloses a caustic etchant for an etching process before the mirror polishing process, but not for a clouding process. Additionally, Erk et al. fails to disclose a clouding process for identifying the front and back surfaces of the wafer.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection over Erk et al.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Erk et al. in view of Miyata et al. (US 2005/0139230).

In response, Applicants respectfully note that the effective filing date for Miyata et al. is December 22, 2004. Applicants provide herewith a verified English translation of priority document, JP 2004-109870, filed April 2, 2004. Applicants invite the Examiner to review the attached translation and determine its effect on the outstanding rejection.

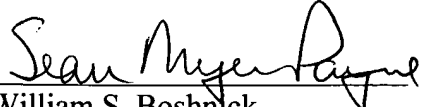
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of the claims. If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss this application further, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

August 23, 2010
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Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Verified English translation of JP 2004-109870